Environmental Consulting Services

City Council Meeting March 2021

Request

- Resolution 2021-07 authorizes the City Manager to execute a contract with Lotus Engineering & Sustainability not to exceed $376,859.58.
  - Professional Services Agreement to provide the following services to the City:
    - Air Quality Monitoring & Policy Recommendation Services
    - Water Quality Monitoring & Policy Recommendation Services
    - Overall Environmental Policy Development
    - Audit and Assessment of municipal facilities and operations

Background

- On August 31, Council directed staff to investigate the creation of a city-wide Air Quality and Water Quality network
- As a result, staff identified the Environmental Consulting Services approach to address Council's request
- Staff Identified Benefits to Environmental Consultant Approach
  - Cost efficiencies through combined efforts
  - Similar overlap in the overall project objectives and categories
  - Quickest path to selecting necessary consultants

Purpose / Drivers

- Increased communication from constituents wanting to understand potential health impacts from exposure to air/water pollutants
  - Emerging from the residential - industrial interface in the Core City
  - Increased need for community air monitoring, additional water quality sampling, increased transparency of data

- Increased attention & focus from CDPHE, TCHD, and other Government Agencies on community health outcomes in the North Denver / Southern Commerce City Area.
  - CDPHE Commerce City / North Denver Story Map

- Develop baseline data & develop recommendations, leading to tangible policy & implementation measures the City can enact to improve environmental quality
- The need for long term water quality management strategies for various watersheds in the City

Purpose / Drivers

- Desire for City's municipal operations to occur in a more cost efficient and effective manner, consume less energy, reduce water consumption, reduce waste generation, and operate more sustainably

- Develop land use policies, strategies, and recommendations that reduces the community's overall energy use, reduces emissions from point source and non point sources, reduces the community's waste diversion to landfills, and develop strategies to remediate and redevelop contaminated and underutilized lands

- Developing these strategies *with* the community step by step throughout the process, placing an emphasis on increased outreach and engagement with populations most disproportionately impacted by exposure to negative environmental impacts

Selection Process

- RFP #CD-02-2020 released on October 2, 2020
  - Seven (7) RFP responses received
  - Four submittals advanced to interviews with multi-department staff panel
  - Two finalist were advanced to final interviews with City Council on December 7
    - Lotus Engineering & Sustainability
    - Spirit Environmental
- Following Staff Panel Interviews & Council Interviews, Lotus Engineering & Sustainability recommended by City Staff as most adequate and capable of delivering the requested scope items
  - Demonstration of relevant project experience in the Denver Metro Area, including Denver 80x50 Climate Action Plan, Longmont Equitable Carbon Free Transportation Roadmap, & various municipal GHG inventories
  - Strong focus on equity & environmental justice in the proposed community engagement approach
  - Reasonable estimated project budget to deliver all requested scope materials compared to other proposals submitted to the City

Consultant

- Project team brings significant experience in sustainability and climate action planning, GHG reduction goal setting, emissions strategy modeling, policy analysis, community outreach and engagement (including weaving equity and environmental justice into processes and outcomes), stakeholder facilitation (remote and in-person), and air and water quality monitoring, measurement, and management.

- Project team consists of:
  - Lotus Engineering & Sustainability (project lead)
  - Pinyon Environmental (air quality & water quality sub-consultant)
  - AMBG Consulting (community engagement sub-consultant)

Scope - Air Quality Monitoring

- Anticipated Scope of Work:
  - An inventory of community-wide and area specific air quality impacts
  - An inventory of existing GHG emissions produced within the community, a recommended set of reduction targets and timeframes, and strategies to reduce or mitigate such emissions
  - Air quality guidelines that would include strategies to reduce Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP's), Particulate and Fine Particulate Matter (PM), Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG's), odors, and other substances of significant health concerns
  - Thresholds of significance, and screening at the project and plan level
  - Air quality modeling guidelines

Scope - Water Quality Monitoring

- Anticipated Scope of Work:
  - Development of Low Impact Development (LID) Stormwater infrastructure guidelines and Best Management Practices
  - Land use policy recommendations and strategies as it pertains to furthering local water quality and wildlife habitats, including a review and assessment of the city's Land Development Code
  - Identification of both significant point source and non-point source pollution causes, an assessment of groundwater quality in the southern industrialized area of Commerce City, and a series of policy recommendations and potential remediation strategies for the city to implement
  - Long term water quality management strategies and recommendations for the first, second, and third creek corridors
  - Identification of potential future capital investments, green infrastructure projects, or other efforts the city could take in to improve water quality
  - Development of a water quality monitoring plan that determines the targeted location(s) and frequency of monitoring activities, in conjunction with the outcomes described above

Scope - Environmental Policy Development

- Seeking a qualified vendor to produce an overall set of policy recommendations and strategies as it pertains to improving community health outcomes, environmental impacts, sustainability, and overall community resiliency.
- Scope of Work broken down into two major categories
  - External Development: Within the community and applying to new development
  - Internal Development: Within the organization and applying to internal operations and efficiencies

Environmental Policy Development

- An overall set of policy recommendations and strategies is desired as it pertains to improving community health outcomes, environmental impacts, sustainability, and overall community resiliency
- Anticipated Scope of Work:
  - Community-wide waste reduction strategies
  - Community-wide water use reduction strategies
  - Community-wide energy efficiency and energy reduction strategies, as it pertains to the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors
  - Energy efficiency, waste reduction, and water use strategies, as it pertains to municipal facilities and operations, buildings, infrastructure, equipment, and vehicle fleets
  - incentive strategies for green building development, adaptive reuse or net zero buildings
  - Policy recommendations and strategies to adopt environmental review of land use impacts of public and private development
  - Process recommendations as it pertains to an overall environmental review framework for land development activities occurring within the city.
  - Hazard mitigation strategies and techniques
  - Brownfield Management, identification, assessment, and revitalization strategies
  - Incentive strategies for renewable energy development
  - Geology and soil management strategies
- Scope of Work broken down into two major categories
  - External Development: Within the community and applying to new development
  - Internal Development: Within the organization and applying to internal operations and efficiencies

Timeline & Next Steps

- Project broken down into three phases – total estimated project timeline 12-15 months
- Phases I & II – at least 6 months, Phase III – at least 4 months
- Project kickoff will occur as soon as contract is executed between Lotus & City

Task	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Task 1: Project Kick-Off and Work Plan	X		
Task 2: Develop a 2020 GHG Inventory	X		
Task 3: Develop a Vision of Organizational Sustainability	X		
Task 4. Develop Strategies and Policies for Community-Wide Sustainability and Health	X	X	
Task 5: Recommend Sustainability and GHG Reduction Strategies and Policies		X	
Task 6: Air Quality Services	X	X	X
Task 7: Water Quality Services	X	X	X
Project Management	Ongoing		

Budget

- Current 2021 General Fund Allocation of $75,000
- Maximum project cost of $376,859.58, includes accurate costing to deliver all scope items requested, plus 10% contingency fund,
- Budget re-appropriation ordinance scheduled for March 15 City Council Meeting to allocate remaining $301,859.58 for FY2021.

Task	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Task 1: Project Kick-Off and Work Plan	$3,860		
Task 2: Develop a 2020 GHG Inventory	$11,405		
Task 3: Develop a Vision of Organizational Sustainability	$16,181.25		
Task 4. Develop Strategies and Policies for Community-Wide Sustainability and Health	$41,704.50	$13,901.50	
Task 5: Recommend Sustainability and GHG Reduction Strategies and Policies		$22,500	
Task 6: Air Quality Services	$66,720.40	$28,954.80	
Task 7: Water Quality Services	$63,151.24	$39,149.88	$19,189.80
Project Management	$5,955.47	$5,955.47	$3,970.31
Totals:	**$208,977.86**	**$110,461.65**	**$23,160.11**
Phases I-III Combined	**$342,599.62**	**+ 10% contingency**	**= $376,859.58**

Questions?

City Council Meeting March 2021